

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 00375 041510Z

47

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 375

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, CY

SUBJECT: MOVEMENTS WITHIN ENOSIS CAMP

REF: NICOSIA 327, 265

SUMMARY: GOVT CLAIMS AND DATT SOURCES CONFIRM THAT MAJOR KAROUSSOS, REPORTEDLY ONE OF TOP EOKA-B LEADERS, HAS RETURNED TO GREECE. REASONS UNCLEAR, BUT SOME INDICATION THAT GRIVASITE CAMP DETERMINED HAVE CYPRIOTS IN CHARGE EOKA-B. NEW GRIVAS MEMORIAL SERVICE IN LIMASSOL WELL-ATTENDED BY MAINLAND GREEKS. ULTRA RIGHT CONTINUES SHOW STRONG PREFERENCE KEEP THE PEACE. IDENTITIES OF MAIN ESEA LEADERS KNOWN; BUT NOT OF EOKA-B LEADERS. WE KNOW ALMOST NOTHING RE TIES BETWEEN TWO ORGANIZATIONS. END SUMMARY

1. GOVT PIO CLAIMED MARCH 1 THAT MAJOR GEORGIOS KAROUSSOS, REPORTEDLY GRIVAS SUCCESSOR IN EOKA-B COMMAND, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 NICOSI 00375 041510Z

SECRETLY LEFT CYPRUS FEB 21 EN ROUTE ATHENS (DATT SOURCES

TODAY CONFIRMED KAROUSSOS DEPARTURE). PIO ADDED THAT NEW PERSONS AND ARMS FOR EOKA-B HAD BEEN SMUGGLED INTO CYPRUS SAME TIME. MEANWHILE, NICOSIA COURT HAS REMANDED THREE PERSONS ACCUSED INTER ALIA OF SMUGGLING KAROUSSOS OFF ISLAND; GOVT HAS ALSO INTERROGATED COSMAS MASTROKILIAS, MAINLAND GREEK BACKER OF GRIVAS, IN SAME CONNECTION. REPORTEDLY ANOTHER BACKER, GREEK SHIPOWNER POTAMIANO (WHO CAME FOR GRIVAS' FUNERAL), NOW OFF ISLAND

2. THEMES OF FUTURE COURSE AND LEADERSHIP OF EOKA-B FEATURED IN RECENT PRESS. BOTH SENSATIONALIST "MAKHI" AND LYSSARIDES' "TA NEA" HAVE REPORTED THAT HARD-LINE MAINLAND OFFICER HAS COME FROM GREECE TO LEAD EOKA-B, THOUGH "MAKHI" CLAIMED GRIVAS HAD PICKED MAN AND DENIED HE CAME TO REPLACE KAROUSSOS. GRIVASITE PRESS ("PATRIS" AND "ETHNIKI"). ON OTHER HAND, HAD ARGUED THAT ENOSIS CAMP DOES NOT RPT NOT REQUIRE LEADERS FROM ABROAD, IMPLYING THAT CYPRIOTS INTEND DIRECT FUTURE COURSE OF EOKA-B. REASON FOR KAROUSSOS DEPARTURE STILL UNCLEAR; DATT SOURCES CLAIM KAROUSSOS NOT ACCEPTABLE AS LEADER TO HARD-CORE EOKA-B MEMBERS. EOKA-B HAS REFUSED DIRECT COMMENT.

3. MOST SIGNIFICANT FROM VIEWPOINT OF FUTURE DIRECTION ENOSIS CAMP IS THAT NO RPT NO RIGHT-WING INSPIRED INCIDENTS HAVE OCCURRED SINCE GRIVAS' DEATH. "ETHNIKI" AND KINDRED PRESS CONTINUE ALMOST PLAINTIVE EDITORIALS CALLING FOR SELF-RESTRAINT, AVOIDANCE OF TENSION DESPITE "PROVOCATIONS" (E.G. INCIDENTS AGAINST RESERVE OFFICERS - NICOSIA 327)

4. MARCH 3 ESEA CONDUCTED MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR GRIVAS IN LIMASSOL. MAINLAND GREEKS PRESENT INCLUDED: AMB LAGACOS, NG COMMANDER DENISIS, ELDYK COMMANDER, AND MRS. GRIVAS. DEFROCKED BISHOP YENNADIOS PRESIDED. ESEA VP SAVERIADES DELIVERED MAIN SPEECH, HARSHLY ATTACKING MAKARIOS AND LEFT, AND REITERATING OLD GRIVASITE DEMANDS THAT MAKARIOS RESIGN, SET-UP CARETAKER GOVT FOR ELECTIONS. VILLAGE ESEA COMMITTEES CONTINUE TO HOLD GRIVAS MEMORIALS, WITH SIMILAR SPEECHES, FROM TIME TO TIME.

5. COMMENT: WE HAD NEVER REGARDED KAROUSSOS AS
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PAGE 03 NICOSI 00375 041510Z

"SUCCESSOR" TO GRIVAS; AT BEST HE WAS ONE OF TOP LEADERS IN EOKA-B. WHATEVER REASON HIS DEPARTURE, POST-GRIVAS RIGHT-WING SEEMS DETERMINED NOT ABANDON "POLITICAL" CONFRONTATION FOR TIME BEING WHILE IT ENDEAVORS SORT OUT LEADERSHIP AND FUTURE STRATEGY. BIZARRE ASPECT OF TOP MAINLAND GREEK REPS IN ATTENDANCE AT PERIODIC GRIVAS MEMORIAL SERVICES WHERE HEADY ANTI-MAKARIOS RHETORIC DISHED OUT REQUIRES NO FURTHER COMMENT. VASSILIADES (PRES), SAVERIADES

(VP), AND CHRISTIDES (SEC GEN) OCCUPY TOP ESEA POSTS. WE
LESS SURE AS TO EOKA-B LEADERS AND RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BOTH
ORGANIZATIONS IN POST-GRIVAS ERA. END COMMENT.
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